

Today's News - Thursday, September 11, 2008

- On the 7th anniversary of 9/11, three very thoughtful takes on what's going on at Ground Zero and what we can look forward to; Calatrava is a bit frustrated to say the least: "I do not say that New York will get the station it deserves, but it will get the station it wants."
- Some concern that China's building boom may be waning.
- A Cambodian city getting cooler by design.
- A Yale study group takes on Las Vegas.
- Hume on Toronto's bid for the Pan American Games - budget won't allow for a Bird's Nest: "Now that really would have been something to get excited about."
- Saffron has high hopes that Philly's casino plans may shift from the riverfront to downtown.
- A copycat design of British school does not make AHMM happy - but not much to be done about it (word of advice: get it in writing).
- Morrison makes move to help shed the profession's "old boys club" image.
- Praise for changes in AICP certification more affordable and accessible - but more to be done.
- Menking et al are blogging from Venice.
- West Coast Green teams with San Jose and the city's Green Vision goals.

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Rebuilding Ground Zero: Long-term Costs of Short-term Planning: Calls for long-term planning were dismissed as foot-dragging and worse - even downright unpatriotic. Paradoxically, the rush to develop is one reason things are taking so long. By Tom Angotti - Gotham Gazette

Can His Agency Repair The Ground Zero Debacle? There have been a lot of battles...by New York's modern-day titans. Mayors versus governors. Architects versus architects...It goes a long way in...explaining how we got to a point, seven years later, that the \$15 billion (and growing) project that's meant to respond to the 9/11 attacks is so out of whack. By Alex Frangos -- Calatrava [images] - Wall Street Journal

At Ground Zero, Little Progress After Seven Years: ...rebuilding quickly—and majestically—seemed imperative. But seven years later, there is nothing majestic about the 16-acre World Trade Center site, a construction zone...15 fundamental issues that are holding up progress. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Foster + Partners; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Maki; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Calatrava; Michael Arad; Peter Walker; David Brody Bond Aedas; Snøhetta - Architectural Record

Is the China boom over? ...may be facing its first Western-style economic slowdown...residential values down 15 per cent in Beijing and Shanghai since the Olympics...Sources claim venture capital is heading for India and Vietnam instead. -- Studio BAAD; SOM; Gensler; Aedas - The Architects' Journal (UK)

City becomes cool by design: While many deride Siem Reap for its rows of homely hotels, architects are busy giving the city a new look that mixes tradition with cutting-edge flair -- Cook+Fox; Bill Bensley; Asma Architects - Phnom Penh Post (Cambodia)

This time, history may not be kind: Design study group may take critical view of cityscape lauded in 'dangerous' book...40 years ago, "Learning From Las Vegas" was called "an assault," "a dangerous book." Lauding the city's "messy vitality," it put Vegas on the architectural map...It's time for a new look..."Learning in Las Vegas." -- Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown; Steven Izenour; David M. Schwarz - Las Vegas Sun

City's self-esteem at stake in Pan American Games bid: Toronto's latest attempt to host a major international sporting event...sounds vaguely familiar..."We've got to be prudent with money. We're not going to build a Bird's Nest." Now that really would have been something to get excited about. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Gallery casino is city's second chance: It may sound counterintuitive, but a downtown casino could be less intrusive than one on the riverfront...Foxwoods should position itself as gambling's answer to New York's Time Warner Center, with its vertical array of shops and restaurants enticing visitors upward. By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

Alford Hall Monaghan Morris labels school extension 'a bastardised copy': ...claims that Essex County Council ordered another architect to copy AHMM's designs. -- Bryant Harvey Partnership (BHP) [image] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Why architecture must shed its exclusive image: Architects from more diverse backgrounds are desperately needed to break down the old boys' club atmosphere...We need to reach out today to kids from all backgrounds interested in becoming architects. By Peter Morrison/RMJM; Stephen Lawrence Trust - Guardian (UK)

Op-Ed: Changes to American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance Program a Positive Step Forward: ...making continuing education more affordable and accessible to planners. There's still much work to be done. By Leonardo Vázquez, AICP/PP - PLANetizen

All the best from Venice, and beyond: William Menking, commissioner for this year's U.S. pavilion at the 11th Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale...along with Julie V. Iovine and Anne Guiney, will be posting the latest: the best pavilions, the worst glasses, the craziest parties, the freshest gossip. - The Architect's Newspaper

West Coast Green Moves to Silicon Valley in partnership between the City of San Jose, September 25-27...the City's Green Vision sets a goal for building or retrofitting 50 million square feet of green buildings in the next 15 years. - Environmental News Network (ENN)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Learning How to Persuade Through Learning Variations on a Theme. Tip #6: Master a communications tool that generates copious variations on your theme. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

-- Under construction: Atelier Christian de Portzamparc: Cidade da Musica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
-- José Rafael Moneo: Chase Center, RISD Museum of Art, Providence, Rhode Island
-- Summer 2008 review

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